

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04392 132255Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /080 W  
-----140026Z 055044 /64

R 132030Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0927  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4392

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, PBOR, PE, CH, AR  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO ARGENTINA ON WAR TENSIONS IN ANDES

REF: (A) STATE 131130, (B) 76 BUENOS AIRES 8038 (NOTAL)

1. APPROACH WAS MADE BY POLITICAL OFFICER TO COUNSELOR JUAN CARLOS IBANEZ, CHIEF OF RIVER PLATE BASIN OFFICE OF FONMINISTRY. IBANEZ WAS FORMERLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION AND SPECIALIST ON QUESTION OF CHILE - PERU - BOLIVIA TENSIONS. IN NEW JOB, WHERE HE REPORTS DIRECTLY TO FONMINISTER, HE CONTINUES TO HOLD RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL QUESTIONS OF CHILE - PERU TENSION AND BOLIIVIAN OUTLET TO SEA. IT WILL BE RECALLED (REFTEL B) THAT IBANEZ INITIATED DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM OF ANDEAN TENSIONS WITH EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IN DECEMBER 1976.

2. WHEN EMBOFF INDICATED HE HAD COME TO TALK ABOUT TENSIONS  
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04392 132255Z

BETWEEN THE FOUR ANDEAN COUNTRIES, IBANEZ IMMEDIATELY BROKE IN TO ASK IN SOME EVIDENT CONCERN IF WE HAD NOTICED ANOTHER INCREASE IN TENSIONS. HE SAID THAT GOA HAD THROUGHT SITUATION WAS HAPPILY QUIET. EMBOFF ASSURED IBANEZ THAT USG AGREED THAT SITUATION WAS CALM FOR TIME BEING, AND THAT APPROACH DID NOT SIGNIFY CURRENT ALARM ON OUR PART.

3. EMBOFF THEN MADE POINTS SUGGESTED BY REFTTEL A AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON, RECALLING THAT IBANEZ HIMSELF HAD RAISED SUBJECT ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO AND NOTING THAT WERE WERE EQUALLY INTERESTED IN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT DURING PERIODS OF CALM RATHER THAN WAITING FOR POSSIBLE CRISIS.

4. IBANEZ THANKED US FOR OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT WHICH HE SAID IS MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO ARGENTINA. GOA WAS PLEASED THAT RELATIVE CALM HAD BEEN REESTABLISHED AFTER DEC. - JAN. PERIOD, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT UNDERLYING CAUSES OF TENSION HAD NOT BEEN REDUCED. IBANEZ SAID THAT PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVEMENT IN CHILE - PERU RELATIONS WAS SHIFT AWAY FROM LEFTIST COURSE OF PERUVIAN GOVT., PLUS STRENUOUS EFFORTS OF BOTH CHILE AND PERU TO PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS. HE SAID GOA HAD INFORMATION THAT NUMEROUS VISITS HAD BEEN EXCHANGED BY LOCAL COMMANDERS IN ARICA AND TACNA, AS WELL AS VISITS B HIGHER RANKING OFFICERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. HE SAW CHIEF DIFFICULTIES REMAINING TO PLAGUE THE AREA AS FIRST, THE SOVIET PRESENCE AND WEAPONS IN PERU, AND SECOND, THE CONTINUING POLITICAL NEED FOR PRES. BANZER IN BOLIVIA TO PRESS FOR OUTLET TO SEA. HE ADDED THOUGHT (PROVINCIAL IN OUR VIEW BUT IMPORTANT TO GOA) THAT CHILE MIGHT BE RESTRAINED FROM ANY THOUGHT OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR BY CONCERNS ABOUT ARGENTINE REACTION TO UNFAVORABLE ARBITRATION DECISION ON BEAGLE CHANNEL. IN HIS VIEW, CHILE MUST CONCENTRATE ALL OF ITS LIMITED MILITARY POWER IN THE NORTH AGAINST PERU, AND COULD NOT AFFORD ANY DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY WITH ARGENTINA.

5. IBANEZ ASSURED EMBOFF THAT GOA WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE PERIODIC  
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04392 132255Z

DISCUSSIONS OF ANDEAN SITUATION, AND THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT

THAT US, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA KEEP IN TOUCH. HE IMPLIED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN SITUATION DEPENDED UPON U.S., WITH ITS INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES, TO MONITOR THE STATE OF TENSIONS AND TO ALERT OTHERS WHEN APPROPRIATE. GOA WOULD, HE SAID, LOOK TO OAS AND TO MULTILATERAL EFFORTS IN CONCERT WITH U.S., BRAZIL AND OTHERS, IN EVENT OF SERIOUS TENSIONS OR WAR IN THE ANDES REGION. HIS FINAL COMMENT, HOWEVER, WAS THAT IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, MOST EFFECTIVE AND MOST PROBABLE MANNER OF DEALING WITH DANGER OF WAR BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE WILL BE FOR U.S. TO "TAKE BOTH NATIONS BY SCRUFFS OF NECKS AND GIVE THEM THOROUGH SHAKING TO END THE NONSENSE."

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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